

**Robert McKenzie to George Washington, August 12, 1760, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.**

**FROM CAPTAIN ROBERT MACKENZIE.**

CAMP AT VENANGO Augt. 12th 1760

DEAR SIR

Though I have as small a Title as any Person whatever to the least Share of your Esteem, yet, by often observing with what Pleasure you seize all Opportunities of using your good Offices for the Assistance of others, I dare to address you and to solicit your Interest in an Affair of the greatest Importance to me, which from your Benevolence alone I hope to obtain. —

My Relations in Europe have procured recommendatory Letters from Ld. Barrington, Ld. Elibanks & Colo. Douglass, to General Amherst in my Behalf & have engaged Colo. Robertson & Capt. Abercrombie, his first Aid de Camp, to present them, and to back them with all their Influence. They have desired me to send a Memorial to the Genl., which I have accordingly done, & to apply to you for a Testimony of my Behaviour, while under your Command. This is the Favour Wch. I have to request; and if my Conduct has ever merited your Approbation, I hope you will do me the Justice to declare it to Genl. Amherst, or in any other Manner, Wch. you think will be equally conducive to my Interest — As soon as I can get Genl. Monctons Liberty I shall repair to the Head Quarters of the Army; & lest such a Step should hurt me in Virginia, I have wrote very fully to the Governor on the Subject, desiring to know what I may expect in the Colonys Service at the Reduction of the

## Library of Congress

Regt; if Nothing, I have begged the Honour of a Letter from him to Genl. Amherst, & by a Memorial to his Council have solicited the same Favour from them. In every Thing I have acted agreeable to the Advice of my Friends, and though my Expectations are far from being pleasing, I am under a Necessity either to disoblige them, or to accept of whatever their Interest may procure for me. —

I am with Major Stewart, erecting a Post at this Place, which is to be a Block House, extended by a Ditch & covered Way — Colo. Bouquet with 250 Pensilvs. is doing the same at Presqu' Isle. The Indians are very passive, and except four Men killed and taken the other Day at the Lake, we have not met with the least Disturbance from them this Campaign —

I should be glad to hear from you as soon as possible under Cover to Major Gates; and shall esteem it a singular Favor to be ranked among the Number of Dear Sir

your Friends & very humble Servants ROBERT MACKENZIE <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Washington's reply. MOUNT VERNON Novr. 20th 1760 DEAR SIR, Had your Letter of the 17th. of August come to my hands before the 18th. Instt. I should not have given you the trouble of perusing my answer to it at this late Season. — I am sorry you shoud think it necessary to introduce a request that is founded upon Reason and equity with an Apology, to me — had you claimd that as a Right, which you seem rather to ask as a favour I should have thought myself wanting in that justice which is the distinguishing Characteristick of an Honest Man to have with held it from you. — But how to answer your purposes and at the same time avoid the Imputation of Impertinence, I am I must confess, a little more at a loss to determine. — That Genl. Amherst may have heard of such a person as I am, is probable: And this I dare venture to say is the Ultimate knowledge he has of me; how then should I appear to him in an Epistalory way and to set down and write a Certificate of your behaviour carries an Air of formality that seems more adapted to the Soldiery than Officers. I must therefore beg the favour of you to make what use you please of this Letter. — For, Sir, with not more pleasure than truth, I can declare to you, and to the World, that while I had the honour of Commanding the Regiment your Conduct both as an Officer and Gentleman were unexceptionable good; and in every Instance as far as I was capable of judging discerning such, as to have merited applause from better judges. Since my time Colo. Byrd has been witness to your Behaviour and his Letters Recommendatory must I am persuaded do you more service than my sanguine endeavours can — Altho he, nor no other Person, is more sensible of your worth, nor more Inclined to contribute their best Offices towards the Completion of your wishes than